

[MJTM 24 (2022–2023) 67–68]

*WISDOM OF WATER*

Brad Davis<sup>1</sup>  
Putnam, CT, USA

Ever seeking the lowest place  
and, though the Quinebaug flows north

before south, never upwardly  
mobile, never not for both

alewife and osprey, unborn and mother.  
When rapid beyond class two,

it is not the water that's to blame  
but the channel, what below

the uninviting surface threatens.  
For water receives a body without

condition or censure, and who wouldn't  
want to be gracious as water,

as what falls on every last body that lies  
beneath what has risen above?

1. Brad Davis is the author of four full-length poetry collections, including *Trespassing on the Mount of Olives* (2021, Poiema/Cascade) and *On the Way to Putnam: new, selected, & early poems* (2024, Grayson Books). Canadian from birth, he has lived most of his life in the United States, and recently, to honor his British Columbian mother, he received the official certificate from Ottawa affirming his life-long Canadian citizenship.

*INDEFECTIBLE (THE WORD)*

You may or may not want  
this to describe your life,  
but if you're anything like me  
and this is your first time  
hearing the word *indefectible*,

then likely you're debating  
either to retrieve your phone  
and do a search for it or  
to relax into a more intuitive  
pose and wait for a sense

of the word's meaning to rise  
from the good earth of context.  
I'm not going to give it away,  
but I will say it cannot be  
said of you. And just in case

you picture me gloating,  
the indefectible life being mine,  
rest assured, neither can it  
be said of me. What I can  
do is point you to an ancient

Latinism crafted by Augustine  
of Hippo—*non posse peccare*—  
that describes what life is not  
now, but may, come the Day  
and forever thereafter, come to be.